Coal supplies to Sikkim were made from Raniganj and Mugma Salanpur fields of Eastern Coalfields Limited.

Explosions in BCCL mines

3069. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the factors leading to the recent explosions in the BCCL mines inthe Kusunda region;

(b) the area, workers and the local population affected and the present situation;

(c) loss, if any, to coal reserves and equipments on count of these explosions;

(d) whether it is a fact that the residents of the nearby locality, Shrinagar and a section of workers had been objecting to the use of powerful dynamites in the Nayadth Kusunda open cast mines;

(e) if so, the action taken on such requests and apprehensions; and

(f) responsibilities fixed for these explosions and action taken against the erring staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (f) On 1.3.95 during the routine blasting operation in coal, an explosion occurred at Kusunda Open cast Project of Bharat Coking Coal Limited. A preliminary enquiry conducted by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) could not pin point the reasons/ factors leading to this explosion. BCCL has now appointed a Higher Power Committee to investigate into the occrrence. Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) are also enquiring into this explosion. Meanwhile, DGMS have issued show cause letters to General Manager, Agent, Manager and two Assistant Managers of the mine besides the nominated owner, namely the concerned Director of BCCL.

(b) The area of influence of explosion extended upto a distance of about 400 metres from the site of explosion which is well within the lease hold area of the mine. Two employees of BCCL and one outsider lost their lives. Four other persons received minor injuries. Presently, the siutation in the area is normal and mining operations have been resumed.

(c) There has been no loss of coal reserves. One drill machine which was surveyed off and was lying near the quarry was damaged. Shaft installations in one shaft (PK-4) were also damaged. The shaft is being refitted.

(d) and (e) Some unauthorised occupants of company's quarters in the vicinity of the opencast mine had, from time to time objected to blasting operation carried out in the mine. Blasting operation in Kusunda Opencast mine was being carried out after obtaining the approval of D.G.M.S.

Coal for domestic use in Gujarat

3070. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual requirement of coal in the State of Gujarat for domestic consumption;

(b) what was the actual allocation of coal in the State of Gujarat for two years, monthly details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the allocation of coal to Gujarat State in the near future;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and